



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET
AND MANAGEMENT

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Secretary

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HOUSE BILL 983 State Personnel – Maryland Department of Health – Pay Rates

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: March 5, 2024

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

SUMMARY OF BILL: House Bill 983 adds employees of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) to § 8-203 of the State Personnel and Pensions Article that requires a forensic pay premium for certain personnel who have direct contact with court-involved patients and work at the Regional Institutes for Children and Adolescents (RICA) - Baltimore and Rockville or a facility that had a forensic admission rate greater than 75% for the immediately preceding fiscal year. The legislation also adds employees in bargaining unit G (engineering, scientific, and administrative professionals) who meet the same criteria.

EXPLANATION: MDH has indicated that this legislation would have minimal impact as it only affects eight current employees. The cost to increase the salaries for these eight employees per the bill would be \$54,000, growing in the out-years for any additional salary increases. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) would like to note that management works collaboratively through the collective bargaining process with agency leadership and exclusive bargaining representatives to negotiate changes in employees' salaries. DBM feels the changes proposed in House Bill 983 would be more appropriate to address at the bargaining table.

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